

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-13 DPW-01 NIC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 AID-20 ACDA-19 RSR-01

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R 111030Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4445

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 12492

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR VS

SUBJ: ICCS: POLISH AND HUNGARIAN OBSTRUCTIONISM

REF: SAIGON 9235

1. SUMMARY. THE FOLLOWING EXAMPLES UPDATE PREVIOUS REPORTS (REFTEL) OF POLISH/HUNGARIAN OBSTRUCTIONISM IN THE ICCS. AS NOTED IN REFTEL THERE CONTINUES TO BE A TAPERING OFF OFF REFUSALS TO PARTICIPATE, HOWEVER, AS EVIDENCED BY HARASSMENT OF WITNESSES AND REFUSAL TO JUDGE EVIDENCE OBJECTIVELY, PROTECTION OF THE PRG/DRV REMAINS A MAJOR OBJECTIVE OF THE HUNGDEL/POLDEL INVESTIGATION ACTIVITY. ALTHOUGH EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT LEVEL OF POLDEL/HUNGDEL OBSTRUCTIONISM HAS NOT DECREASED, THE LEVEL OF REPORTING FROM THE FIELD HAS PROBABLY DECREASED SOMEWHAT AS THIS MODUS OPERANDI  
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IS EXPECTED. END SUMMARY

2. THE FOLLOWING ARE EXAMPLES OF TACTICS USED DURING MAY AND JUNE BY THE HUNGARIANS AND POLES TO RENDER THE ICCS INVESTIGATION

PROCESS INEFFECTIVE.

3. ON MAY 21 AN EIGHT MEMBER ICCS INVESTIGATING TEAM FROM CHU LAI VISITED THI PHO HAMLET IN MO DUC DISTRICT TO INVESTIGATE A MAY 13 ENEMY MORTAR ATTACK IN WHICH TWO PF SOLDIERS WERE KILLED. AS ON PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS, THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS CHALLENGED MUCH OF THE TESTIMONY GIVEN BY WITNESSES IN RESPONSE TO THE ICCS'S QUESTIONS.

4. ON MAY 22 A CANADIAN DELEGATE TOLD THE CONGEN BIEN HOA THAT HE AND AN INDONESIAN DELEGATE HAD VIDEOTAPED AN INTERVIEW WITH TWO NVA POWS CAPTURED AFTER THE CEASEFIRE. THE HUNGARIANS AND POLES HAD ATTEMPTED TO PREVENT THE INTERVIEW, AND REFUSED TO TAKE PART.

5. THE ICCS HOI AN SUB-REGIONAL TEAM ON MAY 21 INVESTIGATED MAY 18 ROCKET ATTACK ON SON THANH VILLAGE IN QUE SON DISTRICT. SENIOR INDODEL OFFICER TOLD POLOFF QUANG NAM THAT CANDEL AND INDODEL FILED A SEPARATE "OBSERVATION AND CONCLUSION" THAT A PRG CEASEFIRE VIOLATION HAD OCCURRED. POLDEL AND HUNGDEL CONCLUDED EVIDENCE WAS INSUFFICIENT AND USED EVERY TECHNICALITY TO AVOID FINDING AGAINST THE PRG. FOR EXAMPLE, THEY NOTED DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN INVESTIGATION REQUEST AND LOCAL WITNESSES AS TO THE TYPE OF PROJECTILE; THEY CLAIMED THE DIRECTION OF FIRE COULD NOT BE DETERMINED; THEY NOTED THE ROUNDS MAY HAVE BEEN GVN ARTILLERY PRACTICE.

6. ON MAY 24 THE ICCS CHU LAI SUB-REGIONAL TEAM, WITH ALL FOUR CHIP DELS PARTICIPATING, INVESTIGATED AN INCIDENT IN WHICH SNIPERS FIRED ON LAMBRETTA VEHICLE CARRYING SEVERAL BUDDHIST BONZES ON MAY 16 ABOUT 3 KILOMETERS NORTH OF DUC PHO DISTRICT TOWN, QUANG NGAI. ALTHOUGH EACH REP ON THE ICCS TEAM LOOKED AT A BULLET PARTIALLY IMBEDDED IN THE VEHICLE, POLDEL AND HUNGDEL MEMBERS REFUSED TO ACKNOWLEDGE HAVING SEEN THE BULLET BY THE TIME THE CHIP DELS HAD RETURNED TO CHU LAI. CONSEQUENTLY, CANDEL CHU LAI REPS TOLD POLOFF QUANG NGAI, THEY WILL SEEK TO NOTE FIRM ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF IMPORTANT EVIDENCE ON THE SITE IN FUTURE INVESTIGATIONS.

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7. FOLLOWING MAY 20 INVESTIGATION IN THI PHO HAMLET BY THE FOUR CHIP DELS OF THE ICCS CHU LAI TEAM, CANDEL AS CURRENT CHAIRMAN DRAFTED THE REPORT. OF THE FOUR POINTS IN THE SUMMARY, CANDEL/INDODEL AGREED TO ALL, POLDEL AGREED TO THREE AND HUNGDEL AGREED TO NONE. THE ONLY POINT ON WHICH THE POLES DIVERGED WAS, OF COURSE, THAT WHICH INDICATED THE PRG WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR A VIOLATION. DURING THE INVESTIGATION ITSELF, POLDEL CHALLENGED THE VERACITY OF THE INTERPRETER AND HIS TRANSLATION OF WHAT THE WITNESSES WERE SAYING. THE CANDELS NOW FIND THE POLES COOPERATIVE IN FORM IF NOT THE SUBSTANCE OF THEIR INVESTIGATIVE ACTIVITY. POLISH TACTICS AT THE SITE, HOWEVER, CONTINUE TO BE AGGRESSIVELY CHALLENGING TOWARD EVIDENCE AGAINST THE PRG AND THEIR CONCLUSIONS RELY ON TECHNICALITIES TO AVOID BRANDING THE PRG.

8. ICCS BAN ME THUOT, REGION III, ON MAY 25 HEARD THE FIRST WITNESS IN AN INVESTIGATION OF APRIL 12 INCIDENT. THIS WITNESS, A TRUCK DRIVER, DID NOT RPT NOT DESCRIBE ATTACKERS AS DEFINITELY VC; HOWEVER, HUNGDEL AND POLDEL EMPLOYED USUAL HARASSING TACTICS.

9. POLOFF DARLAC REPORTS BITTER EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE CANADIANS AND POLES IN ARRIVING AT A 2-2 SPLIT DECISION ON APRIL 12 INCIDENT INVOLVING THE DEATH OF NINE PERSONS ACCOMPANYING A LOGGING TRUCK. THE INDONESIANS WERE HELPFUL AND SHARP, THE HUNGARIANS WERE RATHER PASSIVE. THE DIVISION BETWEEN THE BLOCS IN BAN NE THUOT IS NOW COMPLETE WITH NO AMITY WHATSOEVER BEYOND BASIC COURTESIES.

10. IN BINH THUAN CANDELS AND INDODELS QUESTIONED THE CONFESSED THROWER OF A GRENADE WHICH KILLED TWO AND WOUNDED 22 ON MAY 20. THE HUNGDELS AND POLDELS CONTEND THAT THE INCIDENT IS A POLICE MATTER.

11. ON MAY 29 REGION VII GVN/JMC SURPRISED THE ICCS POLES AND HUNGARIANS IN VI THANH BY INTRODUCING AN NVA PRISONER AS A "WOUNDED VIETNAMESE OFFICER". THE NVA OFFICER TOLD A GOOD BIT OF HIS TALE OF INFILTRATION AND WAR BEFORE THE EMBARRASSED POLES AND HUNGARIANS MADE THEIR EXCUSE AND LEFT. NOW WE HAVE LEARNED THAT THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS HAVE VIGOROUSLY PROTESTED THE GVN TACTIC. IN A MAY 31 LETTER TO THE SAIGON JMC THEY POINT OUT THAT THE SOLE FUNCTION OF THE ICCS IS TO SUPERVISE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 18 OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT. "SINCE NO MENTION IS MADE IN THE AGREEMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF NVA IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM," THEY CONCLUDED, "THERE ARE NO SUFFICIENT GROUNDS TO START AN INVESTIGATION."  
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12. THE ICCS TEAMIN BAN ME THUOT WAS ASKED ORALLY TO "OBSERVE" A MORTARING INCIDENT ON JUNE 14. THE REQUEST WENT TO THE POLISH CHAIRMAN WHO UNILATERALLY REJECTED THE REQUEST. THE CANADIANS AND INDONESIANS ARE ANGRY AT THE POLES FOR FAILURE TO CONSULT THE ENTIRE TEAM, AND ALTHOUGH A WRITTEN REQUEST CAME THREE DAYS LATER, NOW NO INVESTIGATION WILL BE MADE UNTIL FORMAL REQUEST COMES FROM PLEIKU, PROBABLY NOT UNTIL THE END OF JUNE. CANADIAN MAJOR ARNOLD HAS TOLD GVN TPJMT TO MAKE SURE REQUESTS TO "OBSERVE" COME DIRECTLY TO THE CANADIANS, NOT JUST TO THE ICCS CHAIRMAN.

13. THE POLISH AND HUNGARIAN DELEGATIONS REFUSED TO LOOK INTO THE JUNE 12 MINING OF AN OPEN AIR THEATRE NEAR CA MAU, WHICH TOOK A HEAVY TOLL OF CIVILIANS, EVEN THOUGH THE SITE IS ONLY FIVE KILOMETERS FROM THE PROVINCE CAPITAL.

14. POLDEL/HUNGDEL BASED IN VI THANH REFUSED TO INVESTIGATE THE JUNE 18 ASSASSINATION OF A PHONG DINH DEPUTY HAMLET CHIEF AND HIS FAMILY, ALTHOUGH THE REGION VII GVN/JMC CHIEF GUARANTEED PERFECT SECURITY.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 10 MAY 1999  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 11 JUL 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** thigpegh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** SAIGON 9235  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** thigpegh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 22 AUG 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <22-Aug-2001 by smithrj>; APPROVED <18-Oct-2001 by thigpegh>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:**  
**Subject:** ICCS: POLISH AND HUNGARIAN OBSTRUCTIONISM  
**TAGS:** MARR, VS  
**To:** STATE INFO BUDAPEST  
JAKARTA  
OTTAWA  
WARSAW  
JEC PARIS  
BIEN HOA  
CAN THO

DANANG  
NHA TRANG

**Type:** TE

**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005